

REMARKS

In the previously filed response dated January 31, 2005 to Office Action dated November 12, 2004, original claims 1-20 were replaced with new claims 21-34 to further patentably distinguish from the prior art of record, improve the wording, overcome the objection and indefiniteness rejection raised by the Examiner, and provide a fuller scope of coverage.

By this supplemental response, independent claim 28 has been amended to clarify that the ferrule is fixed to an end of the optical fiber. New claims 35-40 have been added to provide a fuller scope of coverage and to cover the feature recited in original claims 10-18.

Claims 35-36, 37-38 and 39-40 depend on and contain all of the limitations of independent claims 21, 28 and 34, respectively, and, therefore, distinguish from the prior art of record at least in the same manner as claims 21, 28 and 34 as set forth in the January 31, 2005 response.

In view of the foregoing amendments and discussions, and in light of the amendments and arguments presented in the January 31, 2005 response, the application is believed to be in allowable form. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims are most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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